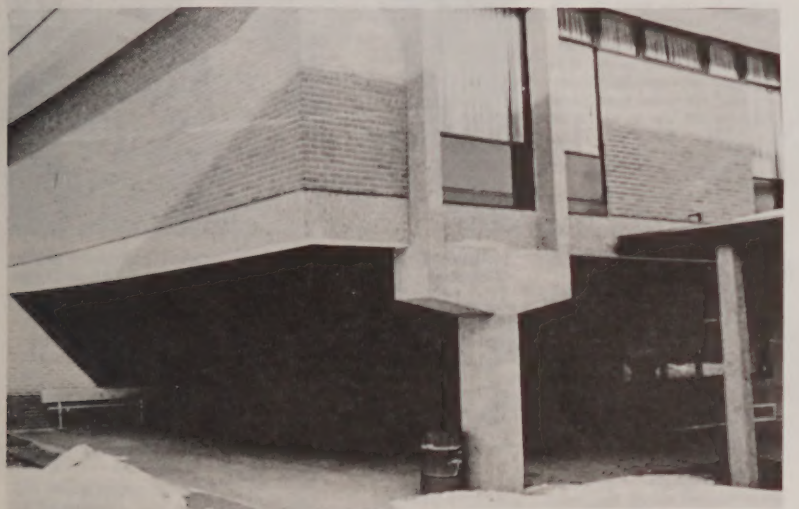
Musket

Vol. XI, No. 3 | Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. | February 4, 1988



Acting Principal David Wilson shut down the Science Building smoking area because of recurring problems with vandalism. Photo by Pieter Cohen

Smoking Area Closed

By Shana N. Alexander

After two lunch-time meetings in the Science Lecture Hall on Friday, January 22, a tentative committee of eleven student volunteers was drawn up to "help control the behavior and the destruction" in the Science Building smoking area, according to Student Activities Coordinator Larry Robinson. Robinson will act as a supervisor to the committee.

The area was closed for approximately four weeks after windows in the Main Hall, Science Building, and entry way to the Main Building were smashed.

Acting Principal David Wilson said that he had "asked that the vandalism stop," and closed the area for three days when his requests were ignored. At a meeting held during the week of January 11, Wilson told concerned students that he had two requirements for reopening the area: "One would be some information concerning who was doing the damage and, if at all possible, some help in deterring them from doing that. The second concern was that we devise some system in which the students police the area themselves in terms of keeping it relatively clean."

Wilson noted that he knew of "at least one of the people who's responsible" for the vandalism.

Robinson equated the concept of this committee designed to offer ideas on how to "maintain the area and keep it picked up," to a group of five seniors who volunteered to patrol the area last year and, in return, received benches for the smoking area.

"The committee is designed to give the students the opportunity to figure out how to stop the problems," Robinson explained.

"How quickly the committee comes together" and what the "established rules" of the area will be are factors on which Wilson will base his decision to reopen the smoking area.

Student Reaction

Senior Allison Mitchell, who signed up to be on the committee, said that she understands Wilson's closing the smoking area in reaction to the recent vandalism. Mitchell noted, however, that the administration's criticism of the smoking area for being — as Wilson put it at the January 22 meeting — a "mess," was "absolutely ridiculous."

"It's like they're trying to make the smoking area look like the bad part of the school," Mitchell said. She added that, while the committee "may have to clean up [the smoking area] a bit . . . [administrators] can't expect us to pick up the garbage that blows in from other areas."

Jen Rogina, a senior, said that she found the closing of the smoking area "stupid, because once something happens in the smoking area, people always jump to close it down."

"If the senior quad got messed up, there wouldn't be such a big deal," Rogina added. She claimed that the path from F-House to the Science Building was vandal-

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Custodians Settle Dispute

By Sara Dempster
and Ariel Lustig

Systemwide custodians reached a new contract agreement with the School Committee on January 7, 1988 after negotiating for almost a year. The new settlement, similar to that of the Lexington teachers, offers approximately a five percent increase for the rest of the 1987-1988 school year, a six and a half percent increase for July 1988 to July 1989, and a seven percent increase for the following year.

The custodians "sick-out" or "blue flu" on December 20, 1987 and December 21, 1987 was one of the custodian's ways of protesting the fact that they had been working without a contract since last June. During the "sick-out," most custodians called in claiming they were sick and did not attend work.

The days missed were not accepted as legitimate sick days by the School Committee and the administration. The custodians will not receive pay for their two days of absence. Despite the new contract settlement, the custodians are refusing to work overtime until they are paid for their days absent.

School Committee member Lynda Wik said that the administration considers the custodians to have been "legally on strike" because the custodians telephoned the *Lexington Minuteman* and announced the days of their absences prior to the occurence. Wik added that the administration is "looking into" exceptional cases of true illnesses on those days and that the administration is giving the custodians different options to earn the money back.

The custodians maintained that they were actually sick. When asked why they did not go on official strike, one custodian replied, "There are 450 teachers. There are fifty of us. We don't have the bargaining power." He added, "The school can go on without us [While we are gone] The teachers did the work for us."

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Senate Debates Open Campus

By Dan Fortmann

The Lexington High School Senate is continuing to discuss the Open Campus Bill which, if passed, would extend the privilege of Open Campus to sophomores of sufficient academic status at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Debate on the issue has been heard on the Senate floor since before the December vacation.

Biology teacher Al Fruscione submitted a bill in July 1987 which would have given Open Campus to all students who maintained a sufficient academic status and who subscribed to school rules and regulations. The bill would change the present policy by giving Open Campus to freshmen and sophomores.

In explaining his bill, Fruscione noted that problems around LHS have resulted not from the Open Campus policy, but from lack of accountability. He stated that the students who are the source of problems are those who have taken a "*de facto* Open Campus."

Under standard operating procedure, the bill was sent to the Policy Committee of the Senate. The Committee removed the opportunity for freshmen and sophomores to receive the privilege and added the conditions such as a minimum grade point average and minimum standards of behavior.

The Committee also decided that the five housemasters should develop a "uniform code for determining a student's willingness and ability to live up to school rules and regulations," another condition for a student to receive Open Campus.

Housemaster Jennifer Huntington of C-House, a Senator and a member of the Policy Committee, said that "the real sticking point was the implementation of the policy by five different housemasters. The students felt very strongly that a standard of behavior was necessary."

Huntington added that developing a code which would be both fair and realistic is difficult because "we're dealing with human beings. We realize the need for flexibility."

The "code" was drafted for the Senate meeting of January 20, but as of press time had not been received by the Senate as a whole.

Open Campus History

The Open Campus policy was instituted in the early 1970's in response to overcrowding (LHS

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Will freshman/sophomore study halls be a thing of the past? Photo by Maryam Kermaty

Teachers Start Fund for Waring

By Chip Giller
and Andrew Fearnside

A legal expense fund for Dr. Waring has been formed by teachers at the High School to help offset fired Principal Michael Waring's legal costs in both defending himself against School Committee allegations of "inefficiency" and "conduct unbecoming a principal," and in suing the School Committee in order to get his previous job back. Organizers of the Fund began meeting just prior to the December vacation.

Social Studies teacher Joseph Kelly, who is chairing the Fund said that the idea to start a fund "came up during the strike where people were stopping by and talking to teachers. People were saying, 'Listen, I'm really concerned about Dr. Waring, I'd like to help if I can, how do I go about doing it?' You have to look at it in terms of a response to a lot of inquiries from the community. People have been really interested in doing something to help Mike's case."

English teacher Karen Russell, also an organizer, said, "A lot of people have had the same idea . . . We feel very strongly about Dr. Waring's position, and we know that he's put a lot of his personal finances on the line here in getting legal support. We feel that, at this point in time, the only just hearing he can get is through the courts because of the way the [School Committee] hearing was conducted originally. We feel that he's getting a fair hearing here [in the courts], but that's going to cost a lot of money. We would like, because we feel he's not just fighting for his own rights but for the rights of all of us in education, . . . to support him in any way we can."

> "We would like, because we feel he's not just fighting for his own rights but for the rights of all in education . . . to support [Dr. Waring] in any way we can."
>
> — English teacher Karen Russell on the legal expense fund for ex-LHS Principal Michael G. Waring

The fund has no specific numerical target as of yet. Organizer Patricia Maier, an English teacher, said that, "The goal is to raise money to help defray [Waring's] expenses." The Fund also hopes to "show the solidarity" of Waring's supporters, according to Maier.

Waring was not involved in the planning or formation of the Fund. Russell stated that "we did ask him if, indeed, defense money would be useful to him and he agreed that it would be. We are in contact with him, certainly, but this [the fund] has originated from teachers, not from Dr. Waring himself."

Waring said that he was "very pleased that some people were willing to help me with [the expenses]." He added that "legal expenses can get to be rather horrendous." Since his firing, Waring has been "working with the lawyers to get my job back."

The next time he will be in court, Waring said, will be March 17. The court will, at that time, decide if a trial is justifiably necessary.

A social benefit has been planned for Friday, March 6. The benefit will include music, dancing, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres. Other fund-raising events have not yet been planned.

Although Russell said that funds would be given to Waring as a donation, she added that "we need to make it very clear that Dr. Waring is not trying to make money off of this suit. What he wants is his job back. If indeed, he wins the suit, what he wants to do with the money is set up a scholarship fund. He doesn't want to keep any of the money personally."

Censorship Legalized

By Shana N. Alexander

"It really is a major change in the interpretation, I feel, of what the fine line between censorship and freedom of expression used to be," was Acting Principal David Wilson's reaction to the January 13 Supreme Court 5-3 ruling which gives public school officials the right to censor school newspapers, dramatic productions, and other "school-sponsored activities."

The ruling was the outcome of a lawsuit filed by three students from Hazelwood East High School, Missouri in 1983. When two pages of *Spectrum*, the school newspaper, were deleted by the principal, the student editors sued the school district, the principal, and various school officials. The two pages contained a story dealing with students' attitudes concerning their parents' divorces and an article on teenage pregnancy in which the girls' names in the interviews had been changed.

Justice Byron White, writing for the majority, noted that "school-sponsored publications, theatrical productions, and other expressive activities" are often perceived by "students, parents, and members of the public . . . to bear the imprimatur of the school."

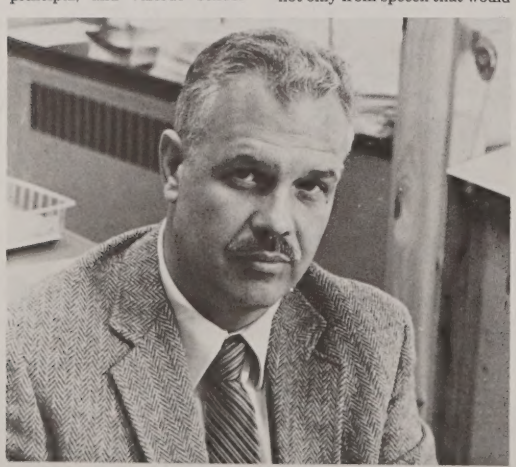
To avoid erroneous attribution to the school, "a school may in its capacity as publisher of a school newspaper or producer of a school play 'disassociate itself' not only from speech that would 'substantially interfere' with its work. . . or impinge upon the rights of other students but also from speech that is, for example, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences," Justice White added.

In his dissent, Justice William Brennan argued, "If mere incompatibility with the school's pedagogical message were a constitutionally sufficient justification for the supression of student speech, school officials could censor each of the students or student organizations in the foregoing hypotheticals, converting our public schools into enclaves of totalitarianism that strangle the free mind and its source."

Wilson noted that he would "feel free to exercise" the new power "if I felt that the newspaper was doing something that would create a serious and very easily described potential danger to the school."

When asked if his concern was directed more toward "disassociating LHS from any student activity or aimed at protecting an individual, Wilson elaborated: "If there was an unsubstantiated, calculated attack on a particular group of students or staff, in which it was clearly not an editorial, it was clearly a malicious attempt to embarrass or anger. . . then I might, at that point, step in."

Wilson added, "I think that my role is to make sure that, for the most part, we are allowed to express ourselves freely, but the other end of the situation is that free expression does not become a weapon that is used to create discord and potential danger to the school."



Acting Principal David Wilson discusses the possibility of *Musket* censorship. *Musket* file photo

Incumbent Lynda Wik seeks a second term on the Lexington School Committee. Photo by Pieter Cohen

Candidates Speak Out

By Anne Duncan

Four candidates have entered the race for the two School Committee seats open in Lexington's March 7 town elections. Esther Arlan, current Committee member, Lynda Wik, Polly Hodgson Woodworth and Albert Zabin will be competing for the slots made available as Wik and Committee chairman Shepard "Tony" Clough reach the end of their three year terms. Clough is not seeking reelection.

"I've accumulated an incredible amount of experience with this system," said the incumbent Wik, "and my commitment is still there."

Wik, who is currently heading the superintendent search committee added, "I just think that things are going to improve for us, and I would like to be on the School Board when that happens."

"The School Committee could use another perspective," said Zabin on why he is running, "I have a well-developed sense of what's politically possible — how to get people to support schools where they've not been supporting schools."

Woodworth who currently has two children in Lexington elementary schools, said, "Three of the five School Committee members have no kids in the school system, and those that do . . . there's one at the middle school and two at the high school. I just think with five elementary schools, we ought to have someone who's at that level."

"I'd rather see more representation of just plain people involved daily in the particular schools," Woodworth added.

Arlan, who has worked on the Appropriations and Capital Expenditures town committees for two terms, said, "There has to be someone [on the School Committee] with a fiscal background. I can understand the budget better than some others." She stated that she would first look into restructuring the management positions in the schools.

Arlan said she sees the primary role of the School Committee members as working with the administration, being informed about current issues, and informing the community of those issues.

"[The School Committee] is mainly the policy-setting body for the schools," said Wik.

Woodworth said, "[The School Committee] focuses on long-range educationally sound planning and systemwide goals."

"It has to make the policy decisions and see that they're carried out by the Superintendent," said Zabin.

The candidates addressed two issues raised by the teacher's strike — the new evaluation process and the impending budget cuts necessary to furnish the teacher's salary raise. Arlan had no comment.

"The evaluation process is only as effective as the person doing the evaluating," said Woodworth. Wik and Zabin agreed.

Woodworth said, "The last place I would like to see cuts is with that staff person who's working in the classroom."

All the candidates expressed the need for "more openness" in future School Committee matters.

"[The Committee] needs to try to instill in the system that there are no sacred cows, that we shouldn't be afraid to re-examine things we've been doing," stated Zabin.

Zabin has been a Town Meeting member since 1972, serving two years as Planning Board chairman. A trial lawyer for twenty-five years, he has three children currently or formerly in the school system.

Arlan has been the Franklin Elementrary School PTA president and served on the PTA council. "I've seen my own kids go through the system," she said.

Wik has served on the School Committee for three years and has been a Town Meeting member for ten years. She has two children who have been in the Lexington schools.

Woodworth is a former elementary school teacher in Lexington and Sudbury. Having a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Child Study, she has spent four years as an educational consultant.

Frank Philosophy

By Jeff Geltman

"Love poems?" senior Frank DiGiammarino says, shifting within his varsity football jacket, "On request, I've written one."

"One? You wrote seven; I have them in my drawer," blurts Liz Lloyd, his girlfriend for two years.

DiGiammarino is a Renaissance man. On the gridiron he starts as wide receiver; with pen in hand he creates poetry; with his camera he captures images.

He began his poetry writings in 7th grade, writing poems for Father's Day. "I used to get away with (writing poetry) for birthday presents . . . if I was too cheap to buy one," he said, laughing. "Anything I write is the way I see things."

After taking a photograph of the woods behind Franklin School, DiGiammarino wrote a poem titled "The Path of Life" about the picture. (excerpt):

A young man stands on the path of life,
listens but doesn't always hear,
follows but wishes to lead,
and questions why things are so."

During the summer, DiGiammarino visited the monument in Washington honoring Vietnam veterans. For a *Boston Globe* Photojournalism contest, he took a picture of a statue representing three American soldiers and wrote a poem about Vietnam. "My father must have done about a hundred proof-readings," he said.

Frank said that "going to the Vietnam memorial got me thinking." Considering the possibility of a draft today, DiGiammarino noted that the decision to dodge the draft or go to war is based on "your values and morals and what you hold high. I think every person has to get respect for what [s/he would] do."

While one afternoon DiGiammarino pensively plots poems with a pen, the next he fearlessly snags spiralling footballs. His father used to play football in college but "never pushes DiGiammarino to do anything" although Dad "has a real work ethic."

DiGiammarino began playing football in his sophomore year of high school. "I can't stress enough how hard it is to play football," he said. This year he earned a starting spot as receiver on the varsity team. "I'm going to try like hell to play football in college," he added.

Knowledgeable about two seemingly opposite worlds, DiGiammarino scorns generalizations. "I think the stereotype for a football player . . . is really offensive. As far as I'm concerned, there is no such thing as a 'dumb football player'."

> "I think the stereotype for a football player . . . is really offensive. As far as I'm concerned, there is no such thing as a 'dumb football player.' "
> — Senior
> Frank DiGiammarino

He disregards the common stereotype that "poets or artists are really spaced out people who don't know where they are." He added, "They are just choosing their own way to express what they have to say. If you only see things one way you are going to see something a poet writes as ridiculous. If you open up, you can see what the person has to say, maybe not even like it, but understand what they are saying."

DiGiammarino, like the men of the Renaissance who wrestled, wrote, and romanced, is living a life where he doesn't confine himself. He seems to set no boundaries to live within: "For some reason, I have an enormous amount of confidence," he grinned.

Frank DiGiammarino, clad in varsity football uniform, displays his photography/poetry project about American soldiers in Vietnam. Photo by Maryam Kermaty

Features

Sophomore Eric Eisenberg and Senior Jordan Goldman, Israeli flag in hand, protest at the Mobilization for Soviet Jewry in December. Photo by Justine Setnik

Protesting for Freedom

By Jordan Goldman

"Freedom is the most important thing to human life," said Andi Fisher, one of over fifteen Lexington High School students who attended the Mobilization for Soviet Jewry last December 6 in Washington, D.C.. Entitled by its organizers as "Freedom Sunday," the Mobilization was considered an unprecedented event because it was the largest organized assembly ever in the United States by Jews at one time. Official police estimates put the number between 200,000 and 300,000 people. The crowd was addressed by New York Mayor Ed Koch, released Soviet Jewish dissident Anatoly (Natan) Scharansky, Holocaust survivor Eli Wiesel, Vice President George Bush, and Democratic Presidential candidate Paul Simon. Music was provided by Peter Yarrow and Mary Traverse of the famous folk group, Peter, Paul, and Mary.

The purpose of the march through the capitol was to call attention to the plight of Soviet Jews who have been refused permission to emigrate from Russia. Known as "Refuseniks," these citizens have lost their jobs when their applications for exit

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Two Student Statesmen

By Karen Mark

"A wonderful experience," is how Harvard senior Eugene Lee summed up being a Lexington Town Meeting member. A graduate of Lexington High School in 1984, he is now a senior at Harvard University. Yet living in a Harvard dormitory has not caused him to give up his interest in Lexington politics.

A sophomore at Yale University and a 1986 L.H.S. graduate, Andrew Michaelson also has not let living in a college dorm completely cut him off from the rest of the world. This past fall he ran for Alder in New Haven, Connecticut, the city in which Yale is located. The New Haven Board of Aldermen is much the same as our Board of Selectmen.

Running as a member of the newly-formed Green Party, which was described by Michaelson as "the left wing of New Haven politics" and by his campaign secretary Lynn Harris as "an alternative to the Democratic Party," Michaelson's main problem is his campaign was keeping people from "pulling the Democratic lever," as he put it, in the mostly Democratic town of New Haven.

Michaelson lost the race to the Democratic candidate, a senior at Yale (The ward, Lexington's equivalent of a precinct, that they were running in is composed mainly of Yale dorms). However, Harris said Michaelson "made a very good showing," and Michaelson said he has "no regrets" about running. "It was nice to beat the Republican," he said. Due to the huge Democratic majority, he said he had "no expectation of winning."

"I am not by nature a politician," commented Michaelson, who, far from majoring in political science, is a psychology/philosophy major. "Yale is very much walled-off from the rest of New Haven," he said, and he saw running for Alder as an opportunity to learn more about the city. He was also unhappy about certain policies of the city, such as their handling of downtown development and environmental problems.

Lee also does not plan to make a career of politics. An economics major, he felt he was learning much, but "as a student, you don't get to use it (what you learn)." As a result, he said, "I got very discouraged with school."

Town meeting offered a solution. Lee could use the economics he was learning in school to work on real-life problems, such as the size of the school budget. Said he, "I was having an impact."

Lee ran for Town Meeting as part of Precinct 5 in March of 1987. There are a total of 21 seats per precinct, and each term is three years, but the terms are staggered so that there are seven seats available each year. In Lee's precinct last year there were eight people running. In order to publicize his campaign, he produced a little flyer and went door to door, talking to people.

The fact that he was a college student not residing full time in Lexington was "not a problem at all," according to him. On the contrary, people were happy to see a young person getting involved in local politics. The age requirement for running for Town Meeting is only 18, which enables most high school seniors to run. "I want to get more high school students involved," stated Lee.

Michaelson's campaign was much more complex. "I knocked on every Yale door in the ward," which he claimed consisted of at least one thousand. From the first of September until the third of November he also wrote and distributed flyers and posters. The whole campaign took many hundreds of dollars.

"Class work was accomodating," said Michaelson about the amount of time he spent campaigning, although he did have to "budget things." Lee also said that being involved in politics was "something I definitely had to budget (time) for." But as he pointed out, most people have things that they do other than academics, and his just happened to be Town Meeting.

"I love it," summed up Lee. "Participation is worthwhile."

Court Mauls Constitition

1986 — The Supreme Court gives public school officials the power to conduct "reasonable" searches of students and their lockers.

1987 — The Supreme Court grants public school officials the right to discipline a student for using "sexually explicit" language during a student-election campaign speech.

January 13, 1988 — The Supreme Court rules that public school officials have the right to censor school newspapers, plays, and other "school-sponsored expressive activities."

The recent Supreme Court ruling is not jarring. On the contrary, the 5–3 decision follows a very definite pattern: the nation's top judges no longer believe that public school students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate." (Quoting, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist.*, 1969.)

For all of us students who are encouraged to share in the excitement over the 200th Birthday of the Constitution, what a present this is.

The principal's presence as a "checker-upper" undermines the student leader's sense that s/he is a capable and responsible individual. Moreover, it denegrates the advisor's role.

The Hazelwood case triggers many legitimate concerns, especially the fear a principal may have of a lawsuit if, specifically, a school newspaper contains heavily biased, poorly researched, and possibly slanderous articles. It might seem equitable that a principal take the role of publisher and recommend changes or even delete stories. If the paper is funded by school money, it appears that a school official should have the power to see that the product is worthy of such monetary backing.

Justice Byron White, for the majority, argued that "school-sponsored publication, theatrical productions, and other expressive activities" are often perceived "to bear the imprimatur of the school," and might therefore pose a threat to the school's reputation. In addition, Justice White noted that "A school need not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with its 'basic educational mission.' "

Justice White's first claim, that the school is tied by name (and funds) to activities, might legitimize deletion by school officials if one sees the principal as a publisher who is "responsible" for what "his" or "her"

The idea of a principal / publisher defeats the intention of school activities in which students take the driver's seat: i.e., shouldering the responsibility of organizing and running an activity and learning how to accept the blame for mistakes and the recognition for achievement.

school newspaper prints. Certainly, publishers and editors often cut articles. As Editor-in-Chief of the *Musket*, I feel that I have a responsibility to print fair, well-researched, and non-editorialized stories. I, too, will delete an article if it does not meet these standards.

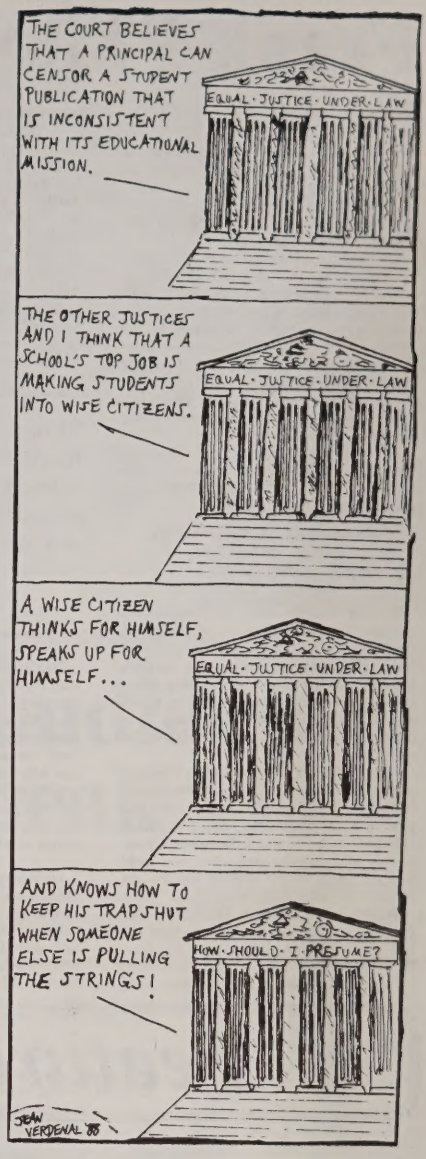
However, the idea of a principal/publisher defeats the intention of school activities in which students take the driver's seat: i.e., shouldering the responsibility of organizing and running an activity and learning how to accept the blame for mistakes and the recognition for achievement. If the role of an activity advisor is to suggest changes to the editor and to act as a liaison between school officials and the student leader, then the existence of principal supervision appears to be unnecessary.

The principal's presence as a "checker-upper" undermines the student leader's sense that s/he is a capable and responsible individual. Moreover, it denegrates the advisor's role. Checking over newspaper proofs says to the student, "You aren't a responsible enough editor," and says to the advisor that his or her position is inconsequential.

Justice White's ruling is internally inconsistent in holding that schools need not tolerate speech that is at odds with the school's "basic educational mission." What more basic educational mission can a public school have than to enable young women and men to understand and exercise their rights and to assume responsibilities?

Justice White must think that the best way to teach students about Constitutional rights is to prevent students from exercising them.

By Shana N. Alexander


THE COURT BELIEVES THAT A PRINCIPAL CAN CENSOR A STUDENT PUBLICATION THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION.
EQUAL · JUSTICE · UNDER · LAW
THE OTHER JUSTICES AND I THINK THAT A SCHOOL'S TOP JOB IS MAKING STUDENTS INTO WISE CITIZENS.
EQUAL · JUSTICE · UNDER · LAW
A WISE CITIZEN THINKS FOR HIMSELF, SPEAKS UP FOR HIMSELF...
EQUAL · JUSTICE · UNDER · LAW
AND KNOWS HOW TO KEEP HIS TRAP SHUT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS PULLING THE STRINGS!
HOW · SHOULD · I · PRESUME?
JEAN VERDENAL '88

Letters to the Editor

LHS ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD DRAWS RECORD NUMBERS OF VIEWERS DURING LUNCHTIME HOURS
NUCLEAR-WEAPONS FREEZE
THING?
Nuclear Winter? Nuclear Winter!
Is this a rerun?
It's Hardbark Soup!! (Yuck) Yum!
Guess, I guess, I...
C'mon Mark? You got it, Mark
I think the Bulletin Board is the best thing to happen to this school since NHS picking up our trash!
HARD ROCK
We love you Vanna!

Get Involved!

To the Editor:

I was elected to Town Meeting last March as a junior in college. I've found it to be an exciting and eye-opening experience. I write to urge all of you who are of voting age to register, to vote, and to consider running for a town office. Your youth and your ideals are needed by the town.

The school system, in particular, faces great challenges. We seek a new superintendent. Teachers seek a contract. The School Committee and Dr. Waring battle over his dismissal. Budgets are being squeezed. As a Town Meeting Member, you can shape the amount of the school budget. As a School Committee Member, you can allocate that budget.

Contact the Town Clerk at 862-0500, and find out how to register and how to run for town office. Lexington needs you.

Sincerely,
Eugene E. Lee
Town Meeting Member
Precinct 5

Parking Fee Vital

To the Editor:

There have been many inquiries and complaints about the increased parking fee at Lexington High School and I would like to offer an explanation. Last Spring the Lexington School Committee searched for ways to increase revenue for Lexington High School. One proposal imposed an activity fee that would be placed on all sports and club activities. This concept was dropped, but a user fee for student parking at Lexington High School was instituted. It is hoped that $7,500 per year would be raised by an annual registration payment of $25.00 per student who chooses to park his/her car at the high school.

This is a change from previous years where a $5.00 fee was asked for registration for as many years as a student was attending Lexington High School. In the new policy the $25.00 fee is annual and a new sticker must be obtained annually. Please see Mrs. Phelan in the Main Office to register and obtain a new sticker.

I know this is a change in policy and has caused confusion and resentment. Unfortunately, we must follow the policies and procedures established by the School Committee.

Roberta G. Neuman

Senators Slander

To the Editor:

As a Senator and a friend of many students who frequent the smoking area, I was discouraged with the discriminatory comments made at the January 19th Senate meeting. Both Mr. Wilson and various Senators made statements positioning Senators in a class high above students who use the smoking area. My friends smoke. They are not vandals. They are not violent. They do not count themselves better than others. Perhaps those who count themselves better than those who use the smoking area should rethink their own values before making such prejudiced generalizations.

Heather McKenzie

VOICE YOUR OWN OPINION!

Leave your signed Letters to the Editor in the *Musket* mailbox in the Student Activities Center.

N.H.S. Numbers Dilute Honor

As an underclassman, I eagerly awaited my induction into the National Honor Society. However, now that I am a member, I am sorely disappointed. With nearly a quarter of the senior class as members, the Society is an unwieldy and inefficient mass.

Since I am a member myself, I do not intend to be hypocritical by denouncing the Society as a complete failure, but rather highlight some faults and offer a few potential solutions.

As I have already mentioned, the size of the group is a major problem. The constantly expanding number of members prevents a sense of unity as a group, and makes it nearly impossible to keep track of one's fellow members. Rather than being a cohesive group, the Society consists of over one hundred individuals fulfilling their required ten hours of community service per quarter and receiving occasional notices in homeroom.

I still have trouble understanding why the supposedly brightest and talented students in the senior class are resorting to scouring the Senior Quad for empty milk cartons and discarded cookie wrappers.

I am not advocating dismissing any members, or denying membership to any qualified applicants, but something must be done as the Society's ranks continue to grow. The longer this problem is ignored, the more the sense of isolation and disunity will disillusion the members.

Perhaps monthly meetings could remedy this situation. By meeting as a group, the Society members could meet new, as well as old, members and focus on the goals and purpose of N.H.S.

...and that's why I joined N.H.S. Looks good on college applications and gives me a chance to do some good in our community. What about You, Bob?
I needed a goal, a reason to get good grades. Then I realized I could put into NHS and pick up trash. That's reason enough for me!
N.H.S.

Another possible solution is some kind of subdivision within the group, perhaps made by type of community service or interests. By organizing the members, it may be easier for a member to find opportunities to fulfill his or her required hours in a service that he or she enjoys.

This leads me to the next major problem of Lexington's N.H.S.: what qualifies as "community service." My favorite activity is having the students pick up trash. I still have trouble understanding why the supposedly brightest and talented students in the senior class are resorting to scouring the Senior Quad for empty milk cartons and discarded cookie wrappers. Is there nothing more worthwhile and productive for them to do? And why are they receiving two hours of credit for every hour spent picking up the trash?

In my French Class the other day we were given raffle tickets to "try to sell." The cause is a good one, but we were offered an extra incentive: for every five tickets we sold, we would receive one hour credit for N.H.S. The teacher insisted that he was instructed to tell us that we were not supposed to go home and have . . . "Mommy or Daddy write out a check for the five tickets." Still, even if we did not force them upon our families, how long does it take to sell five raffle tickets?

I think this problem stems both from the size of the group which makes the "good" activities scarce, as well as the laziness of the members. It seems like the only point of doing a service for one's community is to receive credit.

The immense size could be used to the group's advantage by doing large scale operations like donating a day's labor to renovate old buildings, helping feed the hungry, or setting up some kind of "Big Brother / Big Sister" program.

The N.H.S. at Lexington High School is not a lost cause. I am hopeful that, if others agree or disagree with my criticisms and comments, they will offer their own ides on how to make the group more effective.

By Jenny Marx

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Case Sets Harmful Precedent

Last month's Supreme Court decision allowing public school officials to censor student publications is an unfair limitation of student's First Amendment rights.

It also undermines the efforts of educators trying to teach their pupils the value of such rights.

To begin, the Hazelwood, Missouri High School principal said that he removed two pages from the newspaper because he believed the articles, personal accounts of divorce and teen-age pregnancy, were unsuitable for teenagers. This logic is unreasonable, because few problems are of more concern to today's high school students.

However, the real issue involves the harmful precedent that has been set, one that permits a school official to exercise "thought control" over students, inhibits a student's freedom to voice his or her opinion publicly, and affects a reporter's job to investigate and recount the news.

For example, suppose *The Musket* discovered that a school administrator was secretly misusing funds appropriated for new science equipment. Should this administrator, or another, be allowed to remove an investigative — and possibly incriminating — report from the newspaper?

Another argument centers on the hypocricy of teaching the importance and sanctity of our First Amendment rights while not upholding them in the school environment. This practice would undoubtedly decrease students' respect for the inviolability of these principles.

The real issue involves the harmful precedent that has been set, one that permits a school official to exercise "thought control" over students, inhibits a student's freedom to voice his or her opinion publicly, and affects a reporter's job to investigate and recount the news.

Some supporters of the Supreme Court decision contend that students do not demonstrate enough responsibility when writing. I believe the record shows that, in general, student editors do exercise restraint. In any case, school officials are not completely powerless. A 1969 court ruling states that when the content of a publication is a materially disruptive or infringes on the rights of others, a public high school can abridge students' free speech rights.

I think there will be little need to invoke even these powers at LHS. I hope that administrators will see clearly the paramount importance of our right to free press and that they show their understanding by not trying to dictate what is or isn't printed.

by Sharon Glick

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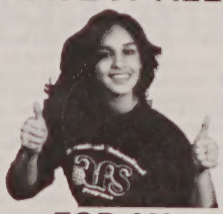

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Lending An Ear

By Laura Thompson

Adolescents must often confront problems or issues in their daily lives that they feel the need to discuss. Sometimes, however, there is no one available to talk with who can help teens to reach a solution. One may be too embarrassed or intimidated to reveal their concerns to someone they know, such as an adult or even a friend.

A recently established telephone hotline, Connection, provides "teen-to-teen" peer counseling. Completely confidential, the Connection staff is prepared to discuss issues focused on school, friendships, sexual relationships, or family problems.

"It is a great group of empathetic teens, which is important because no one can teach you to care."

— Staff member of Connection Hotline

Connection was organized by a group of students who recognized a need for a peer-counseling hotline. In association wtih Replace, a non-profit community-based adolescent and family counseling center, the connection hotline is run by a staff of fifteen Lexington High School students and two advisors, all of whose identities cannot be revealed due to the complete confidentiality of the organization.

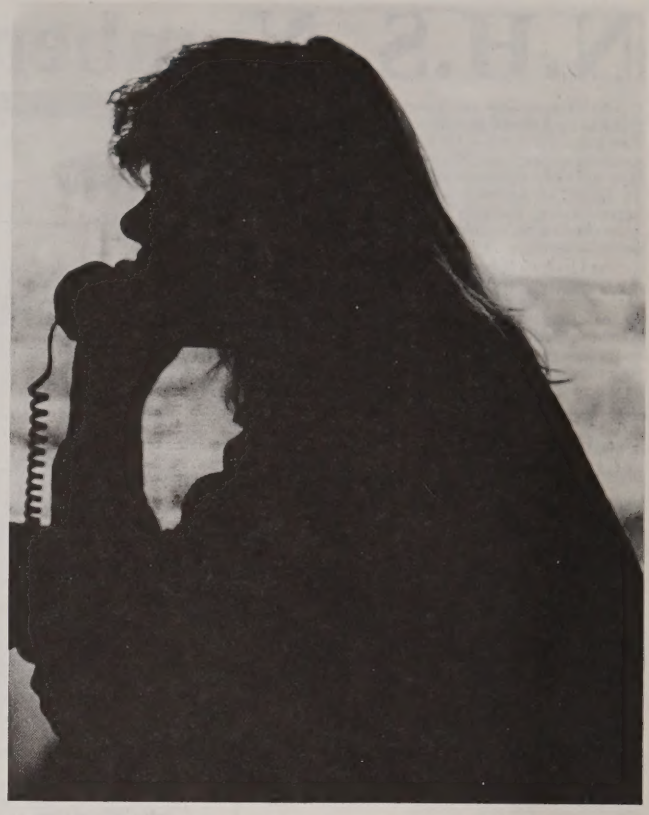
"It is a great group of empathetic teens, which is important because no one can teach you to care," observed one member of the staff.

Some staff members have become involved with the concept of Connection through Coordinator of Guidance, Dr. Robert Delulio or through Replace. One student sought assistance at Replace and learned of the group through a counselor there. Other members disovered it through friends and other students. One member recalled, "I noticed an advertisement in the newspaper for the peer-counselor training, and I just started attending the meetings."

The training of the staff involved ten weeks of learning about many adolescent issues ranging from academics to relationships to drugs. Through films, speakers, and information packets provided by Replace Peer Counseling Training Program, the students developed valuable training in counseling. Group exercises such as skits, dialogues, and practice in assisting with each other's problems prepared the staff to be as unbiased as possible. In addition to communication with others, these exercises helped the group understand their own values and concerns. One student remarked, "It's like a low-pressure psychology course."

Rather than give out advice to callers, the staff is trained to assist a caller in reaching a solution himself. "I don't force my solution—instead I talk the caller through his options, and then he decides the solution," stated one of the teens.

Due to the lack of awareness of the hotline until now, Connection has not received nearly as many calls as hoped. At least two staff members per night, Monday through Thursday, at 861-1233, are ready to listen from six to ten p.m. Said one member, "We're here to help."



One of many LHS students working on the Connections telephone-hotline.
Photo by Maryam Kermaty

Present and former Madrigal Singers honor late LHS Music Department Head, Joseph DiDomenico.
Photo by Pieter Cohen

March for Freedom

continued from p. 3

visas were received by their government. Many are refused visas for unlikely reasons. Those who have served in the Soviet Armed Forces are refused on basis of "Army Service." Refuseniks with scientific knowledge are denied because they have access to alleged "State Secrets." When pressed by ABC News Anchorman Ted Koppel on NIGHTLINE, Mikhail Gorbachev defended the Soviet Union's policies by claiming the United States was trying to remove all the USSR's technically proficient citizens in what they termed a "brain drain."

American Jews feel it is their responsibility to help their brothers and sisters across the seas because nothing can be done to alleviate the problem from inside the USSR. American newspapers have reported that Refuseniks have been beaten by plainclothes policemen in the Soviet Union while attempting to demonstrate for the Refusenik cause.

The preparation for the Mobilization began in early November. The Lexington students traveled to Washington, D.C. on December 6 on coach buses with various youth organizations, such as LEFTY (Lexington Federation of Temple Youth), USY (United Senior Youth), and BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization). The coach buses, subsidized and effectively donated by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, left Boston at 10 p.m. Saturday night and arrived in Washington Sunday morning around 7 a.m. The protesters marched from 12 until 5 and then returned home, arriving back in Boston as late as 5 a.m. Monday morning.

Motivations differed between travelers. Steve Frolich, an LHS senior who, together with Jordan Goldman, painted a huge Israeli flag as a banner for LEFTY, said he marched "to get away from my parents. No, I think we as Jewish American teenagers have something to say which will make a difference to the Soviet Jews and the protest will help change Glastnost for the better. I'm glad I went because every person counted."

Eric Eisenberg, a sophomore, agreed. He thought "it was a good cause and I think that fighting for human rights is an obligation and that human rights are something everyone in the world should have. This is one of those instances where Jews in the Soviet Union have been deprived of their rights."

The march has been hailed by its organizers as a success and loudly applauded from all sides of the political spectrum. Many who attended indicated they would gladly go through it all again if they needed to. It is hoped the Mobilization of "Freedom Sunday" has sent the desired message to the Kremlin and more Refuseniks will be released.

Madrigal Choir Honors Memory of Mr. D.

By Caitlin Smith

"A wonderful thing about Mr. D. was the way that he could inspire pride about music in his students. He made music something special to so many kids." Former LHS Madrigal Choir member Kamala Soparkar's fond memories of Joseph DiDomenico, the late director of Madrigals and head of the Lexington Music Department, were one of many shared by the seventy-plus former LHS Madrigal Singers from groups spanning fifteen years who reunited January 30 in a concert tribute to their late director. DiDomenico passed away last July after a two-year struggle with cancer.

Soparkar produced the student-run concert and former Madrigal member Eugene Lee directed the Singers in the thirty songs. In between the Madrigal pieces were performances by barbershop quartet, the 1987-99 Madrigal Choir, and original piece written by former Madrigal member and 1987 LHS graduate Andrew Berger, and "To a Friend," written by Sandi Peaslee and sung by mezzo-soprano Diana Cole.

Over 130 chorus members joined the Madrigal Singers on stage to sing the "Festival Pice on St. Anne," directed by Peaslee, as the finale to the concert.

Peaslee worked with DiDomenico for nineteen years at LHS, and first conceived the idea of this special event. Peaslee, who is currently on sabbatical at Berklee School of Music, wanted to give the Singers an opportunity to pay tribute to their late teacher. (At DiDomenico's funeral in July, all former choral members were invited to perform the Faure *Requiem*, but the Madrigal's Choir was unable to sing separately to honor DiDomenico's devotion to the group.)

First seated by year, the singers soon mingled according to the songs that they knew and the age gap melted. "It was remarkable . . . singers were separated by generation, some by as many as eighteen years!" said Jeff Leonard, LHS Band Director, who worked with DiDomenico in the Music Department for four-and-a-half years. "Yet, when they were all singing on stage together, their ages made no difference."

Dorothy DiDomenico, who was married to DiDomenico for over twenty-five years, said that "it is remarkable that so many people would have that kind of a bond to bring them together like that."

Leonard, who conducts Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble, helped with the preliminary organization of the concert, but stressed that the peformance was mostly student-run.

The time and energy of many former Madrigal members was concentrated on contacting as many Singers as possible. As there are no records of former Madrigal members from years past, names were taken from old music programs and yearbooks.

Linda Clemon-Karp, who sang in Madrigals in 1982 and assisted in tracking down singers, said that she and Peaslee "spent an entire weekend at Cary Library reading senior yearbook quotes and trying to remember faces of students from fifteen years ago. It was an exhausting process."

Soparkar, who, in 1980 was the first sophomore ever admitted into the Madrigal Choir, was the main contact for all interested singers. "The alumni wanted to express appreciation for what DiDomenico had given," she said. The alums assembled for three evenings before the concert, rehearsing for three hours each night.

In 1972, DiDomenico established the first of fifteen Madrigal Choirs which consisted of sixteen singers who are selected by audition. Madrigals sing *a cappella* (songs without accompaniment) pieces.

The Joseph DiDomenico Scholarship Fund, established per request by DiDomenico, is still receiving contributions for the concert. Over $3,000 have been donated in addition to the $5,000 already in the Fund. The money will go to a deserving student who plans to major in music at college, who has maintained a good scholastic standing, and who has contributed significantly to the Music Department.

News Briefs

Jr. Night

Lexington High School Guidance Department will hold its annual Junior Night on Tuesday, February 9 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Science Lecture Hall (Snow date is Thursday, February 11). The evening will be devoted to explaining the College Admissions Process to parents and students.

A panel discussion by High School counselors and admissions officers will cover the following topics: College Admissions Process; College Board Examinations; and Informational resources available at LHS Career Center including college programs and financial planning among others. The panel discussion will be chaired by Coordinator of Guidance, Dr. Robert DeIulio.

Following a question and answer period, a tour of the Career Center will commence at 9:00 p.m. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

A program for non-college bound students will be held midspring.

Great Debate '88

Lexington High School social studies teacher Mary E. Keenan has been named a Governor John Hancock Fellow by the Coordinating Committee of the federally-funded project, *Ratification: the Great Debate of '88.* The project will bring 364 teachers and students from secondary schools in Maine and Massachusetts to Boston on February 6, 1988 to reenact the Massachusetts United States Constitution Ratification Convention.

The project has received a $50,000 grant from the National Bicentennial Commission and is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts and Maine State Departments of Education, Bicentennial Commissions and Councils for the Social Studies; the Commonwealth Museum (State Archives) and the J.F. Kennedy Library.

Lexington High School junior Shoshana Liptzin was named a Governor John Hancock Scholar.

Keenan and Liptzin will research the local delegate to the 1788 Convention that ratified the United States Constitution, thereby helping to establish the Constitution for the nation. More than 300 schools in both states have joined in this effort, which has been called a model project by the National Commission.

School Year Amended

Due to the December teacher's strike and numerous snow days, Lexington students may be forced to give up April vacation. As of now, only two days must be made up, but should there be more snow days, that number will increase. According to interim Superintendent of Schools Isa Zimmerman, the present plans are such that if only two days need be added, those days will be tacked on at the end of the school year. If the total is three or four days, they will be made up during April vacation. Should it amount to even more make-up days, both options will be used.

Zimmerman said that she anticipates several problems and issues if April vacation must be used. She realizes that many people have made plans and that families will have to make some "very difficult decisions." As for foreign exchange trips scheduled in April, Zimmerman said, "Exchange trips are considered an extension of school and will be allowed to go on."

Awards Offered

Every year thousands of dollars worth of academic prizes and college scholarships are available to Lexington High School students ranging from $25 to $1,500. However, to win an award a student must apply for consideration by the scholarship committee. Some are based on merit and some on financial need as well.

The 1988 distribution of college scholarships for Lexington High School students will be coordinated by high school LABB counselor Peter Kimball.

Information about local and national scholarships will be available to students and parents through their guidance counselors or at Cary Library Reference Desk. If students need more information about the scholarships, they may contact Kimball in A House or Alice Laye in the B House guidance secretary's office.

Teachers demonstrate prior to reaching an argreement on their new contract. Photo by Pieter Cohen

Teachers Get Contract

By Chip Giller
and Shana N. Alexander

The three-year contract that the Lexington Education Association's (LEA) negotiating team reached with the Lexington School Committee on December 5, calls for a substantial salary increase as well as a revised evaluation plan. The contract was overwhelmingly ratified by the 450 LEA members the day after the contract was tentatively agreed upon.

The contract uses an innovative way of implementing salary increases to ease the financial burden on the town. Between the school years beginning in 1987 and ending in 1990, teacher's salaries base will have increased by approximately 23 percent — a compromise between the School Committee's initial offer of 18 percent and the LEA's counterproposal of twenty-seven percent. The increases are to be implemented in semiannual increments. In the first half of the 1987-88 school year teacher's salaries will increase three percent. The following five semiannual increases are all four percent.

According to Personnel Director Richard Barnes, a teacher starting in Lexington with a bachelor's degree beginning the 1987 year with a $17,900 salary, would end the 1989-90 school year with a salary of $22,440. Currently, the new contract would place Lexington teacher's average salary approximately eleventh out of comparable communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The agreed-upon evaluation plan identifies two levels of tenured teachers, and a separate plan for non-tenured teachers. Non-tenured teachers will be evaluated every year, while tenured teachers in level one will be evaluated every other year. Tenured teachers whose "performance is considered deficient" will be placed in a second, separate level. No teacher can be dismissed after one year on the second level unless specifically warned of continued deficiencies by December 15 of that year. A teacher who continues on the second level for an additional year may have his/her salary increase withheld. After a second year on the second level, a teacher must have improved sufficiently to be placed back in the first level or he/she will be dismissed.

A joint committee of eight people, four chosen by the School Committee and four chosen by the LEA, will resolve all other evaluation issues. So that the plan can go into effect with the next school year, the committee must agree on a plan by June, and the plan must be ratified by the School Committee and the LEA members. If the committee has not come up with a suitable plan by June 1, 1988 or if the plan fails to be ratified, a new committee of three independent experts will make binding decisions about the issues and develop a plan to be implemented in October of the next school year.

In a related issue, Acting Principal David Wilson acknowledged that there is currently a "consideration of another bargaining [unit] under the LEA . . . That issue has been and is being discussed now. I think that the [Lexington] principals are certainly looking into the options that they have."

Wilson added that, as he views "the principal's role as considerably different from that of a teacher," he "feel[s] that principals and supervisors should be in a separate bargaining group."

"Spending a considerable amount of time this fall in here opening the buildings, cleaning the buildings, closing the buildings, when the custodians were under work-to-rule conditions, cemented more clearly in my mind that the role [of principals] is far different," said Wilson.

"When you have to evaluate people," he added, "it puts [a principal] in a different position than that of a teacher."

While the "negative aspect of [a separate bargaining unit for Lexington principals] is that if you have a smaller bargaining group, you have less leverage for higher wages or higher benefits," Wilson noted, "the advantage is that it would clearly define, once and for all, what our roles and responsibilities are . . . If we had a strike, people would perhaps have to wrestle less with the issue of whether they are a teacher and should be out on the pavement or whether they should be in school."

(Wilson said that "No principal stuck," but that many principals picketed "during after school hours.")

"No one has really examined any bargaining units yet," Wilson stressed. "It's all too close to the strike, and [the principals] have been getting back into the swing of things."

Trumpeter David Ammer, a senior, toots his own horn at Jazz Night on January 14. Photo by Pieter Cohen

Superintendent Search

By Chip Giller

Four finalists out of a field of seven semifinalists remain in the running for the position of Superintendent of the Lexington Public Schools. They are: John Davis, formerly Superintendent of the Pittsfield, Mass. schools, Dr. Gerald Kohn, currently Superintendent of the Triton Regional School District in Massachusetts; Dr. John Hoeffler, currently Superintendent of the Worthington School system in Ohio; and Dr. Philip Geiger, formerly Superintendent of the Abescon schools in New Jersey.

The finalists were chosen by the School Committee with the aid of a selected Citizen/Staff Advisory Board.

The Board consists of seven citizens, seven faculty members, and two student representatives. Joseph Kelly, a social studies teacher, was the lone LHS teacher on the Board. Senior Ned Goodell and junior Janet Doherty were the student reps. Junior Chip Giller served as student alternate.

Hour-and-a-half long interviews with the candidates were publicly held at Jonas Clarke Middle School on the weekend of January 8-10. Two interviews occurred simultaneously: one candidate was interviewed by the School Committee while the other was interviewed by the Advisory Board. The candidates then exchanged places.

At the end of the interviewing session, the School Committee used the Board's discussions as a criterion in determining the four finalists.

The School Committee employed an education management consultant firm, PNR Associates, to narrow what was a field of nearly one hundred applicants down to seven semifinalists. Dr. William Zimmerman, Superintendent of Wayland, Mass. Schools, was an eighth finalist, but he withdrew his candidacy before the interviews began.

In addition to conducting interviews, members of the School Committee and the Advisory Board visited the school districts in which the four finalists are currently or were formerly employed.

Under new head coach, George Nichols, the Wrestling team is off to a 4-4 start. Co-captains for the team are Bob Sacco and Luyi Shao, who have provided excellent team leadership. Above, Senior John Niland attempts to pin his opponent. Photo by Pieter Cohen

Eric Crichlow

Continued from page 9

runners were dead even but way ahead of the pack. They approached the finish line straining, striding, and reaching for victory. At 25 yards, they were still dead even, as well as being even at 15. It wasn't until the last five that Crichlow showed us his drive, determination, and talent, when he pushed ahead and leaned into the finish line to win the race. He threw his hands up in the air, and for the first time ever, I saw him show emotion. It was great — I can still remember what he looked like. All the muscles in his arms, thighs, and calves glistening with pride for all the speed they had produced. It was a victory that was well-earned and he knew it.

The memory of that race stayed with me the entire summer. It lasted all the way to this winter season, up to the Harvard Invitationals. That was a track meet open to anyone, any ages. Crichlow, who was running for the track club, the Boston Bullets, was going to run the 400 meter (quarter mile).

As always, it took my friends and me a while to find Crichlow. But, finally, we found him warming up in his ever familiar black and red sweatsuit.

At about 3:00 the men's 400 meter run took place. The first heat, usually from which the winner comes, didn't include Crichlow. Someone from U-Conn won the heat in 48.1 seconds (.4 seconds better than Crichlow's best time). The next heat again didn't include Crichlow, and my friends and I were starting to get worried. Finally, before the 3rd heat, we saw him taking off his warm-ups making it clear he was going to run in the next heat. My friends and I yelled our support for him, "Let's go, Eric! Let's win it "E"!

The starter told the runners to get to their marks and Crichlow took his place in the second lane as the 2-lap race was about to begin. When the gun sounded, he exploded from the blocks making up most of the stagger in only the first turn. He sped down the far straight away and took the bank and then headed toward us. He passed the 200-meter in 21 seconds. Crichlow now had a lead of 10 yards and was relying on his awesome stride. As he came down the last straight away, I could see that same drive he showed in the 200 the previous season. His eyes were set on the finish line, his mouth straining with determination. He put forth a lean at the finish line. The time, 47.9. A new meet record! A personal best for Crichlow, and a victory for the Invitational.

My friends and I ran across the track and shook hands with him offering all the congratulations we could think of. It was awesome! He thanked us for coming and was truly gracious.

But nothing could match how truly grateful I am to him. I love watching him run and I hope to continue to follow him on his journeys. And, just for the record, I do think Eric Crichlow will be representing the United States in the Olympic Games!

Boys Run Over By Reading

Continued from page 9

the charge, gliding to a field house record (32.6 seconds) in the 300 yard run. Junior Paul Warner ran to third place, finishing in 37.4 seconds. Reed described Crichlow's speed as "immense" and compared it to "poetry."

Continuing the comeback, juniors Matt Simon and Jason Kissell ran excellent races in the 1000 yd run. Simon, among the league's fastest 1000 yarders, never lost the lead from start to finish, winning with a time of 2:31.6. Kissell ran what Reed called a "smart race" by hanging behind Reading runner Mike Girouard for the majority of the race and sprinting past him in the final 100 yards to place second in 2:32.2.

Things got worse during the mile when Steve Ford placed third behind two of Reading's strongest distance runners, Ben Trevor and Joe Connolly, in 4:57.3. The two mile held an exciting struggle, as junior Dwight Holmes battled Reading's Sean Ronayne and Jeff Croft. Although Holmes led for most of the race, Ronayne sprinted past him during the last couple of laps to win in 10:11.6. However, Holmes ran a personal best with a second-place time of 10:17.0.

Coach Reed had told his athletes during his pre-meet pep talk that "the intensity of big meets like this is what track is all about." Such intensity was admirably evident during the Lexington relay team's heroic win, ironically taking place after Reading had already clinched the meet victory. When Lexington's second leg, Crichlow, received the baton from McCabe, who ran the first leg, he was approximately 10 yards behind the Reading runner. Just as Crichlow got the baton, one admiring teammate was heard to say eagerly, "Now watch this!" It seemed every soul in the crowded field house obeyed, as all eyes watched the amazing sprinter transform a 10 yard deficit into a 30 yard lead within 50 seconds. But Reading's third leg gained 26 of those thirty yards back, almost catching up to Junior Rob Wand by the time the final pass was made. Simon saved the race with an inspirational fourth leg, maintaining the lead over the Rocket runner right through to the finish line.

With the final score 52.5 to 33.5, Coach Reed summed up the Minutemen's feelings with a heavy sigh and a hopeful "We'll get 'em next year."

— Open Campus —

Continued from page 1

had 2700 students at that time). The policy was seen as the chance for students to learn how to better manage their free time and more easily allowed for the opportunity of work-study programs.

The program spread from only allowing seniors with their free first and last blocks the chance to leave school grounds to permitting all seniors, juniors, and sophomores to leave campus during any of their free blocks. Four years ago, due to poor winter weather and pressure from various groups, the administration began cutting back sophomores' privileges of Open Campus. Finally, during the 1986-87 school year, the privilege was never extended to sophomores.

Reaction

Although Acting Principal David Wilson noted that most students deserve Open Campus, he believed that having all students receive the privilege causes "a disproportionate number of problems." Wilson supports Open Campus for juniors and seniors.

However, in a 1985 poll taken by the Lexington Public Schools of 1200 parents of pre-school, elementary, junior high, and high school students, 62% of the 540 returned questionnaires indicated that Open Campus should be abrogated. Open Campus at the time was made available during sophomores' second semester to those students who had no F's and only one D on their academic records. Of the 62% who indicated that they did not support the current Open Campus policy, 60% noted that, if requirements were stiffened, they would be in favor of the Open Campus program.

Julie Lazarus, a sophomore member of the Policy Committee, said taht she feels that the most important changes made by the bill were that the policy would be tougher and that it would be more of a privilege. "You have to earn it," she said.

Custodians

Continued from page 1

The custodians said that they felt that the School Committee originally was not offering them enough money for their salary and for such additional expenses as custodial shoes and clothing.

On and off throughout the negotiating process, custodians refused to work over-time to protest the lack of advancements in contract talks.

Acting Vice-Principal Roberta Neuman said that the custodians' refusal to work over-time "really hurts" the school because the small staff of custodians is unable to complete its work during regular hours. In addition, many weekend activities such as sporting events and musical activities depend upon custodial services to run smoothly.

Wilson Closes Smoking Area

Continued from page 1

ized last Halloween, "when the jocks smashed pumpkins all along the archway." Rogina also cited the occurrence of at least one fire set in trash barrels last fall. "Nobody seemed to do much then," Rogina commented.

"In a sense," junior Jen Pucelli noted, "closing [the smoking area] is called-for, but not being able to use it as a meeting area is deplorable." Pucelli, like Mitchell and Rogina, frequents the "little smoking area" by H-House which has remained open, and therefore does not "feel harshly affected" by the closing of the other smoking area.

Nevertheless, Pucelli noted that "It's a fair request of Mr. Wilson to ask students to patrol the area. Students should be responsible for it . . . That's completely understandable."

In order to keep the area clean, Pucelli observed, "We should be offered more than one garbage can, and it would be nice to have two sand cans. But kids aren't going to ask for anything outrageous!"

Chapter 641 — Smoking Ban

The question of keeping either smoking area open may soon be moot, due to a law signed by Governor Michael Dukakis on December 31, 1987.

According to Suzanne Pafolis of the Massachusetts Department of Education, Chapter 641, which will be effective as of September 1, 1989, states, "It shall be unlawful for any student enrolled" in either a public primary or secondary school "to use tobacco products of any type on school grounds during normal school hours."

Pafolis pointed out that the "deficiency" with the law is that students are not prohibited from using tobacco products before and after school on school grounds.

Each town's or city's school committee must "establish a policy dealing with students" who do not abide by the law. A penalty of mandatory attendance at education classes on the hazards of tobacco use may be one penalty that a school committee may possibly adopt, Pafolis said.

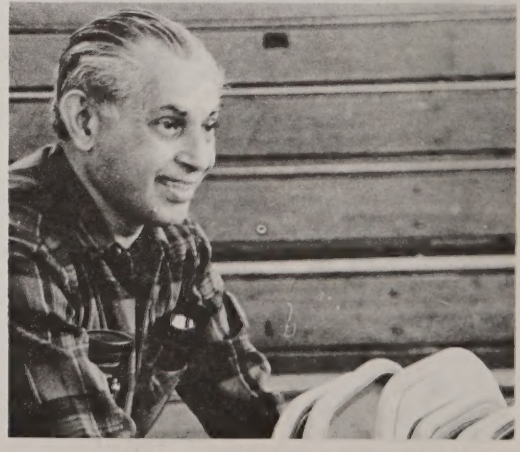
Rogina saw the law as "causing a lot of problems for the school. Kids might rebel and just go behind the Field House" to smoke.

Rogina recognized that new students will probably not feel the effects of the law as keenly as those who are "used to being allowed to smoke" in school, and that it might take "two or three years" for the school and students to adjust to the law.

Both Rogina and Mitchell viewed the law as an attempt by state and town officials to make purchases and use of tobacco more difficult. Buying cigarettes at Lexington Center stores such as CVS and Theatre Pharmacy is, according to the two, almost impossible, but they agreed that Colonial Pharmacy always sells cigarettes, even if the buyers are under-age.

Mitchell foresaw problems with the law in that ". . . people will leave and go further off school grounds . . . They'll skip a class and go to the tennis courts."

The threat of a possible two-day suspension for smoking in the LHS bathrooms would not deter students from lighting up in a lav, either: "I think that people are already in the bathrooms," said Mitchell. "Nobody cares about a suspension — you can always talk your way out of it."



School custodians have returned to their jobs, but are still refusing to work overtime. Photo by Maryam Kermaty

Junior Gretchen McCullough dives for the loose ball in a recent game against Belmont.
Photo by Pieter Cohen

Hoop Maids Faring Well

By Kristin Lieb

The small but speedy 1988 edition of the Lexington Girls' basketball team consists of five returning varsity members, as well as five new members. Of the five returning, seniors Carol Saunders and Tricia Chisholm were selected co-captains. Martha Revis, Kristin Lieb, and Shelli Adamian round out the list of experienced varsity players. Former J.V. players who have graduated to the varsity this year include Nicole DeFrancesco, Miriam Freedman, Gretchen McCullough, Megan Spann, and Caryn Suffredini.

In the season opener at Reading, the Maids suffered a humiliating loss as they were beaten by a score of 33-28. Key Lexington players in this contest were McCullough, who scored eleven points by executing effective fast breaks, and Suffredini, who came to life late in the game. Suffredini continually harassed Reading's offense, which often resulted in turnovers. Unfortunately, the Maids were forced into turnovers down the stretch as well. This was not before Suffredini, with 51 seconds left, would hit a fall away jumper, complete the three point play at the foul line, and hustle back on defense. Then, down by two, the Maids resorted to a rushed offense which caused them to eventually lose 33-28.

At Stoneham, the Maids experienced their first taste of victory as they sneaked by their opponent with a score of 30-27. In this game, no one player excelled, but Adamian, McCullough, and Revis all supplemented the team's offense with numerous steals and rebounds.

When Belmont travelled to the frigid gym of Lexington, frigidity turned to humidity, as a heated battle transpired. Although the 50-35 Belmont win appears to be a blow-out, the Maids trailed by one hoop going into the half-time break. Saunders owned the court in this game, as she was unstoppable on both offense and defense. Offensively, Saunders tallied 18 points through a combination of outside shots and drives. Defensively, Saunders ripped down nine rebounds.

Woburn, who is always a strength in girls athletics, made this year not exception, as they beat Lexington by a score of 42-35. Lieb emerged as the high scorer in this contest with eight points, all products of her outside shooting. Teammate Saunders followed closely behind with seven points mainly coming from contested but successful lay-ups.

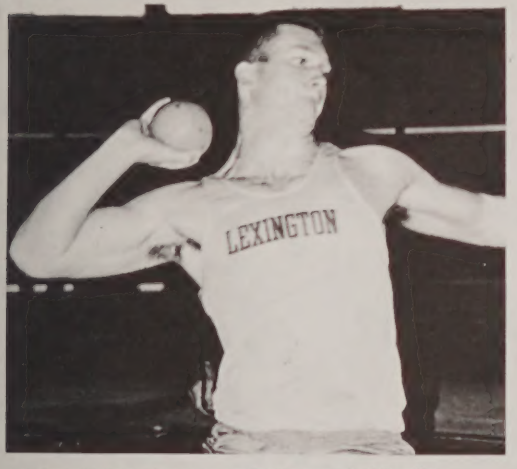
Winchester proved to be the stronger team in a tooth-and-nail battle, as they edged by Lexington with a 43-42 victory. Adamian was Lexington's main offensive and defensive threat, as she contributed twelve points off of the fast break and thirteen aggressive rebounds. Saunders further helped Lexington's cause with eleven points coming strictly from outside of the key area.

Although the Lexington contingent fell prey to Watertown by a 44-38 margin, two Lexington players turned in fine performances. McCullough and Suffredini managed to break through the zone for uncontested lay-ups which rendered 9 and 7 points respectively.

Demolition occurred at Wakefield when the undefeated league champion contingent destroyed Lexington with a shattering 77-48 victory. McCullough and Adamian served as Lexington's only saving grace, as both scored fourteen points through all out hustle. Adamian also provided comic relief for Lexington when she sacrificed her body by throwing herself over the scorer's table in an attempt to save the ball.

Lexington's 65-53 victory over their rival Burlington squad excited Lexington coaches Sandy Curt and Shred Arch to a great degree. After losing both contests to the Red Devils last year, the win was especially sweet. Saunders shot the lights out with a more than impressive twenty-three point showing. McCullough provided much of Lexington's early offense as she accounted for nineteen of Lexington's points. Adamian added a fine offensive performance with twelve points.

The second time around against Reading proved to be far more pleasureable, as the Maids rolled on to a 55-35 victory. McCullough led the way offensively, as she drove consistently all night long, thus accumulating eighteen points. Adamian and Saunders provided additional offensive strength as they scored fourteen and thirteen respectively.



Junior Jeff Wood shot-puts against league rival Reading.
Photo by Pieter Cohen

Reading Too Much For Boys' Track

By Tony Castleman

The Minutemen knew their first meet would not only be their toughest, but also the most important of the season. For the last three years, the Lexington/Reading indoor track meet has decided who would be Middlesex League Champions. And for the last three years, Lexington has lost by less than five points. Coach Bud Reed realized this season would be especially difficult, saying, "We have a young team, and that's good. But it's going to be hard for us without last year's seniors."

The 45 yard hurdles is among the Minutemen's weaker events, but junior Doug Wilson grabbed a third place with a time of 6.7 seconds, giving Lexington its first points. Wilson also gracefully proved himself to be the league's leading high jumper, leaping 6 feet to take first place. Junior Mike Burke tied for third place with a 5' 4" performance.

In the 45 yard dash, at the sound of the gun, Reading sprinter Derek Watkins burst into the lead. Lexington sprinters Nathan McCabe and Tony Castleman began to catch up, but couldn't overtake him. Watkins finished first in 5.3 seconds while McCabe and Castleman took second and third, respectively, both with a time of 5.4.

After a Reading sweep of the 600-yard run, led by Rocket Bob Hart who finished in 1:21.3, in a style reminiscent of Reading legend Greg Duffy, the score stood 22-5 in Reading's favor, and the chances for a Lexington victory began to appear quite bleak, but the Minutemen rallied a brave attack against the Rocket's lead. Tri-captain Eric Crichlow led

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Eric Crichlow: One of a Kind

By Jason Kissell

I can remember precisely the first time I ever saw him run. I was at basketball practice, and he was running around the indoor track. His long, beautiful strides were such that I was compelled to ask, "Who is this person?"

"Oh, that's Eric Crichlow. He won the Bay State games and everything else last year," replied Tony Castleman.

At every basketball practice thereafter, I would watch Crichlow run. Sitting on the bench as often as I did, this was an easy task. It was the first time I was ever amazed watching anyone run. Crichlow had a certain grace to his stride that I had never seen before. He looked awesome. He looked fast. He looked unbeatable. I knew then he was someone special, maybe Olympic material.

From then on I went to all the Lexington High School indoor track meets. Crichlow won race after race, annihilating his opponents. Every 300 yard dash he ran was 33 seconds of pure pleasure for me.

One particular moment that sticks out in my mind was the winter Reading Track Meet of 1986. It was the last meet of the year. After easily winning his 300-yard race, Crichlow ran the second leg of the 4x400 meter relay, and then amazed me, and just about everyone else in the stands, by lengthening the Lexington lead from 5 feet at the baton pass to about 25 yards at the finish, running a stunning sub-50 second quarter mile. It was unbelievable!

He won the E-Mass title two weeks later and followed that with a State meet victory the week after. He was elected to the *Boston Globe* All Scholastic Track Team. His most impressive performance of that season was running a 31.5 second 300-yard dash to place third in a National High School track meet. Third best in the nation had a ring to it that I liked. Are the Olympics out of the question? I wondered again.

> He looked awesome. He looked fast. He looked unbeatable. I knew then that he was someone special, maybe Olympic material.

The following spring I wanted to see a lot more of Crichlow, so I joined the outdoor track team. Before every meet it wasn't hard to find him, because he had that familiar pre-race Crichlow look; layers and layers of clothes on him. He always wore a sweatshirt with the hood pulled over his head to give him a "Rocky" like image. His sweatpants, either black or red, were always on the verge of falling to his ankles, which made him look even faster, since it suggested the trim line of championship runners.

That spring, Crichlow easily won the 200-yard dash at Boston College Alumni Stadium, but barely won the State Meet, as Shrewsbury's Craig Spence challenged him but fell short by .01 seconds.

It was the New England Championships next, but because of the strength of Massachusetts versus the other 5 states, it was essentially a repeat of the state meet the previous week. Crichlow was again attempting to defend his record. In the 200 meters Spence was there trying again to take the crown away from Crichlow. Both runners won each of their qualifying heats, while an outsider from Connecticut also looked impressive.

As the runners got into their blocks, silence fell over the stadium. The gun exploded and as the runners took the first turn, you could see a surge by Spence, and then one by the runner from Connecticut, and then by Crichlow. With 50 yards left all three

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Eric Crichlow — Olympian?
Photo by Pieter Cohen

Hoopsters Rank #1 in State

By Sarah Estow

The LHS Boys' basketball team is off to a tremendous start with an undefeated record and a win over the best team in the State, Durfee, during the Brockton tournament over the Christmas break. They are now attempting to do what no team has ever done; win the Middlesex League for the fifth year in a row. According to junior Tony Davis, "I know we can do it."

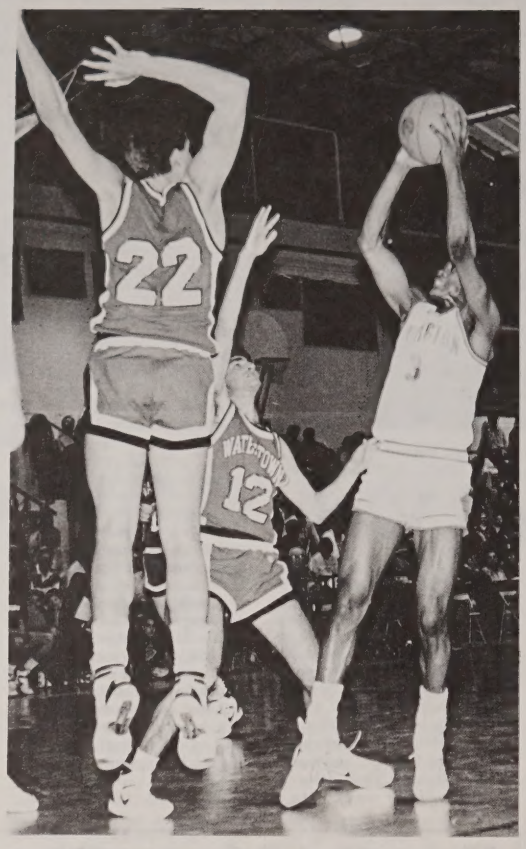
Optimism was in the air as the Minutemen downed the Reading Rockets on opening night with a score of 81-51.

The next victims of the Minutemen were the Stoneham Spartans. The demise was done neatly and cleanly, and when all was said and done, 38 points (85–47) separated Coach Bob Farias' boys from the overpowered Stoneham team. Co-captains Tom Brincklow (10 points and 7 rebounds) and Sean Matthews (19 total points) helped do away with the Spartans.

The routing of the Melrose Red Raiders was next in line for the Minutemen. The Lexington players didn't look back after the final shot of the quarter by Ed Sullivan (6 total points) left the score at 20-5; and went on to win by 39 points, 99-60.

Next up for the Minutemen was the Brockton tourney. There the boys in blue and gold met Brockton and Durfee High School, reputed to be the best team in the state. Coach Farias foresaw height being a possible problem for his small team since Brockton has a frontline of 6' 8", 6' 6" and 6' 5" and Durfee's beanpoles are 6' 8" and 6' 5" but the Minutemen would not give in. The match-up against Brockton in the opening round ended in a 79-62 win and against Durfee they came away with a 76-69 victory and the respect of basketball enthusiasts throughout the state.

Versus Brockton, the Minutemen were securely in charge by halftime with a lead of 36-23. Co-captains Brincklow (26 points) and Matthews (19) led the Minutemen. Lloyd Mumford scored 16 and the title of Tournament MVP while sixth-man Jim Morrison added 10.



Senior Sean Matthews shoots over Watertown's Jim Pierrakos (22). Photo by Kevin Burnes

The Minutemen, though proud and excited about the victory, didn't let that get in the way and focused on beating Durfee and the best big man in the state, Matt Attar (6' 8").

This victory wasn't as easy to come by as the one against Brockton because this time the Minutemen had to run around Attar, but Lexington's pressing and running style was too much for Coach Farias' old high school. "I don't think they deal well with us. Our kids work hard to defend the big men by helping each other front and back. We don't allow them to set up often," he said.

"Historically, big teams haven't hurt us," said the coach, "and this was not any different." Attar was held to 14 points while 6' 2" Brincklow, 6' 4" senior Trevor Williams and Pat Marshall went to work. "We played (Attar) as we always do . . . we feel a big man's height is going to hurt him against us," said Farias.

The Minutemen were down 36-35 by halftime but went on a 25-7 run in the third led by Brincklow (17 total points, 13 in the third quarter) who also picked up a $500 scholarship as the tournament's outstanding player.

Williams scored 15 and Mumford was a force with 17. Matthews scored 14 and was named to the all-tournament team and Morrison once again scored an even ten.

The next two teams faced by the Minutemen were Belmont and Woburn. Against Belmont, Lexington came away with an easy 87-64 win. In the Woburn game almost every Lexington player scored resulting in a mauling of the winless Tanners.

Playing against Wakefield, the Minutemen had a tougher time but the signs for the victory were all there.

By the end of the first half the Minutemen were up by four (29-25). The tough defense and steady offense of the Warriors didn't let up during the third, so Lexington was left with the identical lead at 43-39.

With the fourth quarter came drama, suspense, and tempers. At 4:44, a Davis block was seen by the referees as a foul. Coach Farias didn't see it the same way and voiced his outrage, and the referee slapped a technical on the coach. Wakefield's Jay Allen made the first and missed the second. Then, teammate Steve Harrington sank both of the free throws from the original foul. The score was now 45–46 and Lexington fans were biting their nails over whether Lexington's perfect record would be marred. Coach Farias put Morrison in with 4:36 left in the game. He was fouled at 3:40 and Morrison sank both to tie the score at 47-47.

Morrison pulled his team ahead by one with a three-pointer at 2:13, 52-51. With :15 left in the game it was all tied up, 57-57, and Wakefield was called for a team technical for not coming out to play right away. This was the break Lexington was looking for. Cool-hand Morrison sank both. Wakefield's only chance now was to foul Lexington, which they did at :14. Unfortunately for Wakefield, they fouled the wrong guy. Morrison made both shots to stretch it to 61-57.

A three-point goal by Steve Harrington pulled Wakefield to within one 61-60. Once again the only hope for the Warriors was a deliberate foul. One would think that they wouldn't want to foul the steadiest shot in town, but perhaps they panicked under pressure. With five seconds left, Morrison made both and brought the score to where it stayed 63-60.

The Winchester Sachems were the next casualty of the Minutemen. This time the amazing Mumford was the star with 29 total points. The mid-point mark of the season presented the Minutemen with their biggest mental challenge — playing Watertown for the name of the best team in the Middlesex League. Both teams went in with a spotless record but only one could leave the battle unscarred. Shawn Matthews (28 points, two steals, 5 rebounds, and 3 assists) was the leading offensive soldier for the victorious Minutemen, with best friend the Amazing Mumford close behind with 16 points, 6 steals, and one assist.

Earlier in the season, Coach Farias foresaw that the Brockton Tourney would be the largest obstacle for his Minutemen. Now that they've passed that with success Coach Farias now says, "The biggest obstacle we face now is concentration. Now it is in our own hands."

Girls' Track Out To Defend League Title

By Rosemary Berger

The LHS girls' indoor track team bounced back from its 48-37 loss to Reading in the season opener to run a 3-1 record.

The Rocket's victory was Lexington's first defeat in two years. For two seasons Reading had wanted revenge and this was the year. In the 45 yard hurdles, Amy Marx faltered on her start, and despite identical times of 6.9, Marx's competitor was awarded first place by the officials.

Junior Kirsten Kramer grabbed third place in 7.6 for the extra point. Leslie Singer fought the pack in the 45 yard dash to take first place in 6.1. Michelle Sheehy sprinted to an early lead in the 300 but lost it to Reading's Andrea Hall who finished just one tenth of a second ahead. Lexington trailed by eight points going into the distance events, not LHS's strongest area.

In the 1000, Jay Hartshorn rose to the occasion and flew by her opponent to first place in 2:59. Elise Richer, one of a handful of seniors on the team, paced herself to finish in first place. Unfortunately, Lexington, without entrants in the two mile, handed Reading the next nine points. Juniors Val Funches and Melanie Stephens attempted to close the gap by throwing to first and second respectively in the shot put.

Reading wiped out Lexington's hopes as the Rockets swept the high jump to clinch the meet. Lexington had the last word, though, as the 4x400 relay quartet of Hartshorn, Marx, Laurie Budding, and Sheehy sprinted by Reading to first place.

The Maids looked forward to the next meet with the traditionally weak Watertown squad. LHS dominated from the beginning and finished with a 65 point margin, 76-9. The victory included sweeps in the 45 yard dash, the 1000 yard, and the shot put and numerous first and second place finishes.

Sarah Lippert and Kristen Burge, braving the mile for the first time, finished with first and second place honors. Sheehy and Shana Yansen jumped to the top two spots in the high jump.

Feeling refreshed from the Watertown workout, the LHS tracksters put all their energy into squeaking by Stoneham 44-42. Marx and Kramer stole first and second respectively in the 45 yard hurdles. In the 45 yard dash, Singer sailed to first place in 6.0. Freshman Sarah Hutchinson was on Singer's tail to snag third place. Tricia Alfred led the way for Lexington in the 300, finishing at 38.2. Sheehy sprinted to a second place with a time of 39.6. Hartshorn and Richer were victors in the 600 and the mile respectively.

Stoneham, scared by the Lexington surge, came back in the two mile and the high jump to sweep both events. The Spartans led 42-39 before the final event, the 4x400 relay. Singer sped to an easy lead that was lengthened by both Hartshorn and Sheehy before the baton was passed to Alfred. Alfred cruised to the tape with a substantial lead over Stoneham to wrap up the victory.

Sprinting-standout Tricia Alfred leads Stoneham's Danielle Filigni in the 4×400 relay. Photo by Pieter Cohen